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FEC
Office of Complaints Examination
and Legal Administration
Attn: Frankie Hampton, Paralegal
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20436

September 22, 2014

Dear FEC:

This letter is in response to MUR 6864.

Thank you for your notice, and the opportunity to respond to the complaint. We assert that the claim is frivolous, because no violations have occurred, and therefore it should be dismissed by the FEC.

Essentially, the complaint alleges payment in 'excess of fair market value' by the campaign committee (i.e. Campaign ID: C00492330) to the manager/treasurer (i.e. Danielle Ruiz) for the services of campaign manager, treasurer, accounting and compliance, etc. However, the complaint fails to disclose what 'fair market value' for such services may be, and therefore, does not show that a violation has occurred.

Such fair market value information is easily accessible, and a quick review of any number of sources widely available on the subject, including the internet, etc., reveals that the average pay for such a service as 'campaign manager' or 'treasurer' is easily \$30-50,000+ per year. So in fact, the manager was paid far below the average rate for the services of campaign manager, treasurer, and compliance/accounting, etc. And therefore, no violation has occurred.

Further, and more troubling, is that the complaint misleads the FEC, by grossly overstating the amount that the campaign manager was paid for services.

For example, the complaint alleges that the manager was paid \$500 per month for the time period from July 2013 to the date of the complaint, which is August 2014. But the record shows that the manager was paid that amount only from July 2013 - April 2014. From May - August 2014, the record shows that the manager/treasurer was paid only \$800 total, or an average of \$200 per month. Again, the complaint misrepresents the facts. Even if the complaint's tally were accurate, which it is not, the amount in question is in either case still far below fair market value for such services.

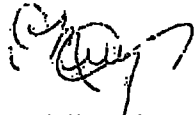
Lastly, the complaint, rather cavalierly, suggests that the campaign was 'virtually non-existent.' Such a suggestion is incongruous with the facts. The campaign was covered in

local television, radio and internet media, repeatedly, as well as being covered in national election media blogs and radiocasts. The campaign also sustained local television and internet advertising. Ultimately, the campaign garnered more than a quarter of the entire electoral turnout in an incumbent primary election, and accomplished that task, at a fraction of the costs typically associated with a U.S. congressional campaign. Hardly, a 'virtually non-existent' campaign.

The complaint is a misstatement of the facts, and fails to show that any violation has occurred. Further, it does not define the key part of its argument with regard to a reasonable definition of 'fair market value for services.' More troubling, it irresponsibly exaggerates the statement of monies paid to the manager/treasurer. The complaint then further misleads the FEC with falsities about the visibility of the campaign. The trinity of flaws in the complaint render it frivolous, and it should be dismissed by the FEC because no violation has occurred. Again, most poignantly, the facts show that the manager was paid far below fair market rate for the services of campaign manager and treasurer.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Danielle Ruiz
Campaign Manager